

Docket No.: 01-22 US

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 20, line 21 and ending on page 21, line 6, which begins with the phrase "According to one embodiment of the invention, flow cell manifold block", with the following rewritten paragraph:

- - According to one embodiment of the invention, flow cell manifold block **150** (Figure 2) is adapted to operatively receive a plurality of dip probes or fiber-optic probes of similar design. Referring now to Figure 3, an example of a dip probe of conventional design, generally designated **DP**, is illustrated by way of background. In conventional use, dip probe **DP** is inserted into a test vessel **V** so that the lower portion of its tip **121** is submerged in media held by test vessel **V**, thereby allowing absorbance measurements directly in test vessel **V**. Dip probe **DP** typically includes a flow cell **123** or similar sample target area defined by a gap between a fused silica or quartz lens or seal **125** and a suitable light-reflective surface such as a mirror 127. Dip probe **DP** operates in conjunction with a spectrophotometer **130** that includes a light source **132** and a detection means such as a photodiode amplifier/detector **134**. A first, light-transmitting fiber-optic cable **136** runs between spectrophotometer **130** and glass seal **125**. A second, light-returning fiber-optic cable **138** runs between glass seal **125** back to spectrophotometer **130**, and usually includes an interference filter **141** or similar component. In use, a beam of light emitted by light source **132** is guided by first fiber-optic cable **136** along the direction of arrow **A** into flow cell **123**. This beam of light passes through the media residing in

Docket No.: 01-22 US

flow cell **123**, is reflected by mirror **127**, and thus is redirected into second fiber-optic cable **138** along the direction indicated by arrow **B**. The light beam then passes through interference filter **141** and returns to spectrophotometer **130** where the signal is processed by detector **134**.- -